Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

Economic Statistics Released During the Week of August 11, 2003 to August 15, 2003

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
New Motor Vehicle Sales	June			New motor vehicle sales in Canada numbered 129,997 in June, down 10.2% from the previous month. Passenger car sales fell 8.6% and truck sales declined 12.1% from May. Nine provinces recorded monthly decreases, with the largest declines occurring in Prince Edward Island (-17.0%), Ontario (-14.5%), Alberta (-8.5%) and Quebec (-8.1%). Newfoundland and Labrador was the only province to experience a monthly gain in sales (+2.7%).
Alberta	15,513	-8.5%	-13.2%	
Canada	129,997	-10.2%	-11.0%	
Canadian International Merchandise Trade ($ millions)	June			Canada's merchandise trade balance fell by almost $400 million in June, to $3.6 billion - its lowest level since October 1999. Falling exports of agricultural and fishing products (-6.4%), machinery and equipment (-4.9%), forestry products (-4.7%) and automotive products (-2.6%) contributed to the monthly decline. This was partly offset by a 2.2% drop in imports in June.
Exports	31,560	-3.2%	-6.5%	
Imports	27,998	-2.2%	-7.0%	
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	June			In June, new house prices in Canada were up 4.5% from the same period last year. All 21 urban regions surveyed posted annual increases, led by Québec (+8.9%), Regina (+6.7%), Montréal (+6.6%), Hamilton (+6.2%) and Victoria (+6.1%). Monthly increases were largest in Victoria (+1.6%), St. Catherines-Niagara (+0.9%), Regina (+0.9%) and Saskatoon (+0.7%).
Canada	116.3	0.3%	4.5%	
Edmonton	123.1	0.1%	4.6%	
Calgary	130.7	0.6%	5.0%	
Housing Starts (Thousands)	July			Canadian housing starts were at 223,500 in July, up 8.5% from June. Six provinces experienced monthly increases, led by British Columbia (+35.7%), Québec (+14.1%) and Alberta (+13.0%). Prince Edward Island (-44.4%), Newfoundland (-22.2%) and Saskatchewan (-5.9%) experienced monthly declines, while Manitoba's housing starts were unchanged from June.
Alberta	39,000	13.0%	27.5%	
Canada	223,500	8.5%	11.4%	